

## DOING GOOD: "The Work of the Word"

### INTRODUCTION

- Titus 1:1-4 is one of the clearest representations of Paul's mission and ministry in life.
- Paul gave himself to the **preaching of the Word** which resulted in **lives being changed**.
- **Key Idea:** Doing Good is the product of the Work of the Word.

### THE PRIORITY OF PREACHING (TITUS 1:1-4)

"at the proper time manifested in his word through the **preaching** with which I have been entrusted" (1:3)

- Paul emphasized **one apostolic activity: the preaching of God's Word**.  
Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- **Church growth** and **church revival** is brought about by the preaching of God's Word.  
Acts 12:24, 13:49; 19:20

"I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. . . I did nothing; the Word did everything."  
(Martin Luther)

#### Applications:

1. Expect **pastors** to be **preachers**. "If not, don't go to their churches!"
2. **Demand** that the teaching of the Scriptures be the **main thing** in the meetings of the church.
3. Order your week around the **public preaching of God's Word**.
4. **Prepare your heart** to profit from the ministry of God's Word.

### THE PRESS OF PREACHING (TITUS 1:1-4)

"at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been **entrusted**" (1:3)

- Paul felt a **weightiness**, an **obligation** to give himself to the ministry of God's Word  
1 Corinthians 9:16
- "The pulpit is no place for **fools** or **comics**."

"The prophets of old were no triflers. They did not run about as idle tellers of tales, but they carried a burden. Those who at this time speak in the name of the Lord, if they are, indeed, sent of God, dare not sport with their ministry or play with their message. They have a burden to bear – 'The burden of the Word of the Lord.'" (C.H. Spurgeon)

#### Factors in a Preacher's Burden:

1. The Press of **Servanthood** –
  - Paul, a **servant** of God (Titus 1:1) – The word *doulos* can be translated "bondservant" or "slave".
  - an **apostle** of Jesus Christ (Titus 1:1) – technical sense is limited to eye-witnesses of the risen Christ; refers to someone who has been commissioned and sent by Jesus Christ.

#### Characteristics of a Definite Call to the Ministry:

- Compulsion – a passionate internal desire to study and minister the Word of God.
- Character – qualified according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1
- Commitment – given to hard work (2 Tim 2:15)
- Competency – "able to teach" (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:9)
- Conviction – a lover of doctrine and known for theological clarity

"Was you sent or did you just went?" (Donald Grey Barnhouse)

# Sermon Application Questions

March 24, 2019

## REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip opened his sermon with observation that "the secret to success in life is discovering what God wants me to be and do and then giving my best to doing it and being it." What is your purpose in life? If someone were to ask you what your life purpose is, would you be able to state it clearly?

2

Read Titus 1:1-4 more carefully and slowly. How did Paul summarize his mission statement in life? What are some key elements of Paul's mission statement?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **Acts 12:24**

But the word of God increased and multiplied.

### **Acts 13:49**

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

### **Acts 19:20**

So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

### **1 Corinthians 9:16**

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

### **1 Timothy 4:13-16**

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

### **Titus 1:9**

He must hold first to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

2

**Read Titus 1:5-9.** What are some observations that you have about this text? Why do you think these specific qualities are listed as characteristics of an elder?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

1

The Apostle Paul saw the ministry of God’s Word as central to his mission in life. Evaluate your own daily interaction with God’s Word. How developed are you in the following spiritual disciplines? Rate yourself 10 for strongest and 1 for weakest.

Evaluation (10 to 1)	Discipline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hearing God’s Word:</b> The discipline of actively, intently listening to the teaching of God’s Word with an attitude of eager obedience.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading God’s Word:</b> The discipline of daily, systematic reading of God’s Word with the view towards covering both the Old and New Testaments.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Studying God’s Word:</b> The discipline of earnestly studying the Scriptures in a way where discoveries can be organized and remembered.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Memorizing God’s Word:</b> The discipline of memorizing specific verses and passages of Scripture.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meditating on God’s Word</b> – The discipline of actively pondering the truths of God’s Word, thinking of its meaning and application in our lives.</li> </ul>

Choose **one** the disciplines listed above. Write out **one practical way** that you desire to grow in that discipline. If you are in a small group, this is a good opportunity to invite others to share practical ways to grow in God’s Word.

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2

The term *doulos* in Titus 1:1 means “bond-servant” or “slave”. Based on this verse, Pastor Philip exhorted us to “conform your plans to God’s plans.” Have you submitted your plans to God’s plan for your life? Write out a prayer of devotion expressing your submission to God’s will for your life.